

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4019
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 3143

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CZ, YO
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV-CZECH RELATIONS

REF BELGRADE 7397

1. IN SPITE OF PESSIMISTIC VIEWS OF CZECHOSLOVAK EMBASSY COUNSELOR
ON BILATERAL POLITICAL RELATIONS REPORTED IN REFTEL, THE OCTOBER 26-28

VISIT TO PRAGUE OF YUGOSLAV FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PRESIDENT
(PREMIER) VESELIN DJURANOVIC WAS CARRIED OUT IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF
RESTRAINED SWEETNESS AND LIGHT. CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA WERE
CRANKED UP TO PRAISE BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION AT LENGTH,
ALTHOUGH THE COVERAGE WAS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON PROJECTS BEING
CARRIED OUT IN YUGOSLAVIA BY CZECHOSLOVAK ENTERPRISES.

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2. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE, WHICH CONTAINED NO SURPRISES, DESCRIBED
ATMOSPHERE OF THE DJURANOVIC VISIT AS ONE "...OF FRIENDSHIP,
FRANKNESS, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND RESPECT..."
WHILE DJURANOVIC TALKS WITH PRESIDENT HUSAK WERE DESCRIBED AS
"CORDIAL AND FRIENDLY." PERHAPS OF GREATEST INTEREST IN THE
COMMUNIQUE WAS THE PHRASE DEALING WITH BELGRADE, WHICH SUGGESTS

THE GOC IS BEARING UP UNDER THE CRITICAL ATTENTION IT HAS BEEN RECEIVING AT THAT MEETING: "THEY (I.E., THE TWO PREMIERS) STRESSED THE MEANING OF THE BELGRADE MEETING AND EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT THAT MEETING WILL BE A PLACE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WHICH WILL STIMULATE INITIATIVES TOWARD FURTHER CONSOLIDATION

OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE WHOLE WORLD." COMMUNIQUE ELSEWHERE AND IN OTHER CONTEXT STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS, ACCORDING TO THE COMMUNIQUE, CENTERED ON CARRYING OUT EXISTING AGREEMENTS ON TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPING COOPERATION. DURING THE VISIT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO SIDES SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ON LONG-TERM COOPERATION IN THE USE OF THE TRANS-CZECHOSLOVAKIA PIPELINE FOR TRANSPORT OF NATURAL GAS TO YUGOSLAVIA.

4. PREMIER STROUGAL ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT YUGOSLAVIA.

5. COMMENT: QUITE CLEARLY THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED TO KEEP THIS VISIT PURELY GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT TO AVOID PUBLIC AIRING OF IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WHICH WOULD HAVE EMBITTERED THE ATMOSPHERE. THE ONLY REFERENCE TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS THE OBLIGATORY CITATION OF HUSAK AND TITO BY BOTH THEIR PARTY AND STATE TITLES: STROUGAL'S PARTY PRESIDUM MEMBERSHIP WAS NOT MENTIONED. THE ATMOSPHERICS CREATED BY THE GOC WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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IN LINE WITH RECENT EFFORTS (PRAGUE 2748 NOTAL) TO WOO VISITING YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS.

6. FOR BELGRADE-IT HAS SEEMED TO US THAT CZECH MEDIA ATTACKS ON YUGOSLAV CORRESPONDENTS (REFTTEL) HAD LESSENED BY COMPARISON WITH LAST YEAR. BUT THEY MAY BE TAKING PLACE IN MEDIA WE DO NOT ORDINARILY COVER. WE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ANYTHING SIMILAR TO RED TANJUG THAT WOULD HELP KEEP US ABREAST OF WHAT YUGOSLAVS ARE SAYING ABOUT CZECHOSLOVAKIA. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR OCCASIONALLY POUCHING US CLIPPINGS OF YUGOSLAV COMMENTARY ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA, NO TRANSLATION NECESSARY.
BYRNE

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